
This Just In ...

A Bulletin for News of Political Prisoners and POWs

Issue 18

NOVEMBER 1995

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Ed Note: We'd like to remind contributors to TJI that for the sake of clarity and reasonable brevity we often take the editorial privilege of paring down a submitted item. Please bear with us; we value all your reports and thoughts.

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LYNNE STEWART, attorney for Richard Williams sent a letter to the National Broadcasting Company concerning the docudrama which purported to be an account of the killing of a NJ state trooper and the subsequent manhunt and arrests. In part she wrote: "I am demanding an apology and retraction of that portion which dealt with the arrest and detention of Richard Williams...The episode indicated that Mr. Williams, upon his arrest offered to cooperate with the authorities and suggested that this was what led them to Thomas Manning and his subsequent arrest. *This is absolutely untrue.* It may be of some interest and importance to you, that the children of the group, later called the Ohio 7, were the ones who were cruelly exploited by both the FBI and the New Jersey State Police and it is by that method, reminiscent of the Gestapo, that the Manning residence was discovered. Perhaps NBC was 'duped' into this law enforcement cover-up?"

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ABDUL OLUGBALA SHAKUR writes from Pelican Bay: "The majority of the New Afrikan PP/POWs (BPP/BLA in particular) are in prison as a direct result of the US government Cointelpro....Under the Cointelpro the crime of murder, torture, extortion and attempted murder were committed, but the most prevalent crime committed by this government under the Cointelpro was false imprisonment...False imprisonment was used as a tool to exhaust or-

ganizational funds via legal costs and to disrupt organizational cohesiveness by locking up key members on bogus charges--we have documented proof. We also have documents to prove that this government had played a major role in the conflict between the BPP and US organizations which resulted in the death and/or serious injury of many of the comrades, Bunchy and John in particular. ...This government was intentionally labeling members of the Party informants, knowing that death was the penalty for snitching. We have the facts; why have we yet to use this info to bring this government to court? Not individual suits but class action suits against this government and all other federal/state/local agencies which had participated in the enforcement/execution of the Cointelpro....This lawsuit can be filed on behalf of the New Afrikan communities, the families of those who were murdered. As a people, both our human and civil rights were clearly violated....Not only should we demand financial compensation but the immediate release of all PPs/POWs incarcerated as a result of the Cointelpro...."

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AL CONLEY writes from FCI Oxford, WI: "Parole hearing March 1996" *** "Placed under investigation for 'participation in encouraging others to riot' on Oct. 21, '95. The allegations are due to 8 federal prisons rebelling after learning that the crack law was shot down by Congress. I was targeted for political reasons..." *** "No organized activity allowed here!" *** "Working with younger soldiers to raise their consciousness about the plight of POWs & PPs." *** "Family is well. Missing me!" *** Al expresses greetings to soldiers he's been jailed with and blessings and love to Mutulu Shakur, Sekou Odinga, Kojo, Jihad

Mumit, Bird, Orbin Harris and those fighting for liberation... *** "Amandla ...Aweto!"

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ABDUL MAJID writes from Sullivan Co. prison, Fallsburg, NY: "The current issue of TJI [September] was confiscated by the administration and I was informed that there was material on pages 2 & 7, I believe, that was unacceptable due to its violent content..." ***

"Naturally I couldn't verify this because I never got an opportunity to review it. This was a first time for me that the newsletter was stopped..."

*** Later Majid writes: "You should not be surprised at the conduct of these people. Actually it is one person and he is the Deputy Superintendent of security (Wayne Wilhelm); he is a neophyte fascist disguised as a public official protecting the good of the institution."

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IMARA SEKOU S/N WELDON WIGGINS writes from Pelican Bay: "Slight mix-up in the Oct. TJI: Send statements to United States District Court, Eastern District of California, 1130 O Street, Rm. 5000, Fresno, CA 93721. Wiggins vs Gomez et al C-F-94-5858-OWW Heb-P. I need affidavits decrying Calif. Dept. of Corrections Debriefing Policy, which requires prisoners to become informants in exchange for release to general population." [Sekou in the Oct. TJI had asked for sworn statements explaining that you had been told by C.D.C. that if you don't supply evidence against yourself and others, you'll never be able to return to general population.]

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AKONO JAH (REV. ALBERT JACKSON) writes from Pendleton, IN (Indiana State Reformatory): "We are battling with the issue of racism on the part of racist DOC Police. One battle has been won; we were able to have one set of Mark Fuhrman's removed. One more to go. We are on him with politics and unity." *** "There is talk of the DOC charging prisoners for medical care..." *** "Please be informed that anyone having input for the anthology project should not send their work to

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U.B. and U.S. -- send those to me and write to U.B. & U.S. for an application for independent black writers association membership." *** If anyone knows of anyone who has the desire to produce and market books written by PP's and POW's, ask them to contact me. I have a solid plan that would give us control over our own publishing....and generate funds for our own needs...defense funds for rades in need..." *** "If you know of outside contacts who have a computer set-up and time to focus on such a project, have them contact me..." *** "Much love to all you comrades!" "Mumia and Kalonji, stay strong big brother--my spirit is with you--and with all of us!"

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DAVID GILBERT writes from Comstock: "The one program I mentioned in June that I didn't update is my writing workshops for the M.A.N. program. Despite a very good opening workshop, we haven't been able to meet due to the M.A.N. leaders' inability to navigate all the bureaucratic hassles here, so it looks like the workshop is dying. But I figured for a non-happening it would take too much of TJI's precious space to explain why it's been falling apart." *** "I also didn't take the time to try to explain my writing projects. One that I just completed is my answers for an anti-imperialist interview that will also include Marilyn, Linda, and Laura. I feel I did a good job of upholding the principles of struggle against imperialism without lapsing into dogma but instead by being grounded in the humanism that impels us." *** "Chesa has started high school, looks like a dreamboat, plays soccer and is driving on a learner's permit!! We're scheduled for a trailer on 10/27-9."

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PHIL AFRICA writes from SCI Dallas: "Was moved on Aug. 2nd from Rockview Prison to Dallas." *** "Since being here I have been denied just about every publication I was allowed to receive at the last place; in fact this Oct. issue of TJI is the *first* I've been allowed since being here." *** Activity: "None at the moment but hope to be involved with the box-

ing team." *** Family: "Everyone is strong and focusing on the work of John Africa's revolution as always." *** "The battle to save Mumia is far from over. Let's all stay focused on the *power of unity* that pressures this system to stay Mu's execution till we pressure this system to free Mumia and all PP's and POW's!" *** "Long live John Africa!"

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BONNIE KERNESS writes that that National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons held a national gathering in Chicago on October 21-22. In a new brochure which has been issued it states: "Members of the political action committee ...[are emphasizing] building the capacity for effective protest, publicity, emergency response or direct action. *Prisoners in Control Unit Prisons are encouraged to participate. For more information on this committee contact: Nozomi Ikuta, Edelle Corring, Kom'Boa Ervin.*" Write c/o Nancy Kirshan, Committee to End the Marion Lockdown, PO Box 578172, Chicago, IL 60657.

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MARILYN BUCK writes from Dublin, CA: "Nothing to report--like to make space for other comrades to write." *** "Do you know what the Henry George Institute is? Perhaps I would like to take Mumia's political economy course! Is it correspondence?" {Can any of you readers answer?}

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HANIF S. BEY writes from Atlanta: "Today Oct. 20 a memorandum was circulated throughout the institution and signed by Warden Willie Scott stating that due to a chain of events throughout the BOP USP Atlanta had now been placed under official lockdown until further notice." *** "The chain of events was prisoner insurrections in Talledaga, Ala., Memphis, Tenn." *** "The catalyst for these rebellions may have been the recent Supreme Court decisions to maintain the unjust 'crack cocaine' sentencing structure." *** "For the past decade or so Warden Scott has been viewed as somewhat of a 'troubleshooter' for the BOP,

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and after a staff member was beaten to death with a hammer this past Dec., Scott was sent to Atlanta to suppress the rage." *** "The SHU lock-up [here] attests to the suppressing methods utilized by Warden Scott." *** "We are given recreation outside our cells once a week, and housed 3 men to a cell designed to hold two. The third man shares the floor with the aggressive mice that seem to make their way into all federal compounds." *** "It's virtually impossible to challenge these conditions through exhausting administrative remedies, as my counselor has come to my cell one time in the 40 days I have been in SHU." *** "The population itself is predominantly young New African males and prior to their incarceration most were residents of the southern region of the US. A large percentage of these prisoners are affected by the 'crack laws,' so it will be interesting to see how Warden Scott contains the resentment that is emerging." *** "A big shout-out to 'General Snipe,' Gorham-Bey, Aziz and Malik, along with all the other rades." *** "It's a new day..."

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KALONJI JIHAD writes from MCC, Westville, In.: "No jobs at MCC." *** "I do plenty of legal work and write essays and articles..." *** Health: "Biological/psychological torture which causes physical/mental harm. (Denied treatment)." *** "New Afrikans, Muslims and nationalist prisoners should form a national council...primarily to fight kkkolonialism." *** "Prisoncrats are still sabotaging my food trays--I'm fed cheese for lunch and supper every day for the last 3 months..." *** Jihad says his nearsightedness is not being treated correctly and his glasses may be causing inner eyeball damage. *** "Love to all POW's, PP's and righteous oppressed people."

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WILLIAM GILDAY, A.K.A. "LEFTY" in Bay State Corr. Center, Norfolk, MA, writes: "Have just obtained 'preliminary injunction against DOC, AT&T & NYNEX in US District Court, MA.: Defendants can't monitor/record or pen register calls to attorneys, or families or friends."

Motions to dismiss filed by DOC, NYNEX & AT&T were denied by Judge Woodlock." ***
 New rules: "Cut down canteen to 3 days per week. No more Motrin—it costs too much. [Gov.] Weld privatized medical care and we are losing badly!" *** "Am auditing Boston University college courses." *** "Trying to make people understand how the politics of the 90's is becoming more repressive and how the code of the conservatives is BUILD NEW PRISONS & THEY WILL COME TO FILL THEM!" ***
 "Still working to get people who never had a fair trial out of the can....the odds are stacked against us, but we must try!!!" *** "Hospital next week to have carcinoma cut out of ear. Want to pull out teeth but they want me to wait a year for false teeth—another court case." ***
 "Saw part of 'In the Line of Duty—The Hunt for Justice,' [NBC television movie] which was so bad that I nearly vomited and shut the thing off.....I know a lot of the people portrayed in the movie and it is totally false and only made to make the FBI look like they are doing a good job when they are in fact liars and oppressors of the working people of this country."

News article in Berkshire Eagle, 11/2/95 reports removal of 299 prisoners collected at MCI-Norfolk who have been sent to Texas. We hope Gilday is not with them.

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RAY LEVASSEUR writes from Florence: "My disciplinary hearing on Aug. 30 went as I expected, with some cop standing in front of my cell reading the riot act and stating that my proposed submission of the TFI (French t.v.) tape and reporters statements would have no impact on his decision. Bad person that I am I got restricted commissary and lost all my clean time towards getting out of ADX. Liz [Fink] has contacted TFI to explore our options but I've not heard back from her yet. Between Bill's [Kunstler] death and the resumption of the Attica she's stressed and overworked." ***
 "ADX canceled a scheduled photo session with 'Details' magazine, but the article based on earlier interviews will be in their Dec. issue." ***
 *** "Everything you wanted to know about the United Freedom Front but were afraid to ask,

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was televised in an NBC movie on October 1st. I'd thought they'd get someone like De Niro to play me but instead they got a third-rate actor that looked like Mister Potatohead. It was a horrendous, awful puke of a movie." ***
 "Recently I was able to participate in a sweat lodge ceremony (ADX tried to keep the sweat out but federal court rulings are clear that where there are Native American prisoners, there must be a sweat). A medicine man was allowed in to set it up. It's about the only good vibe I've felt in this place lately. The pleasant aroma of red cedar shavings and sweetgrass clung to me for a long while." *** "Hopefully the good vibe will continue when the Levasseur junior women's militia visits later this month. It's been over a year since I last saw them." ***
 "The latest bad vibe materialized in the form of an internecine battle when I was taking outside rec on Friday. One prisoner took another's head and tried to put it through the steel door of the trap. When we were pulled back in I hopscotched over the blood." *** "But not all the tax dollars are wasted. Just yesterday—at 6:00 a.m.—the hacks came to my cell and administered a breathalyzer. They determined I was not under the influence of the last Moosehead beer I drank 11 years ago." *** Later Ray writes: "I think the 3M was a significant and awesome expression of the Black Nation's cares and concerns. The numbers were very impressive. Attacking or discrediting this demonstration because Farrakhan was the primary initiator is to miss the forest because of the trees (it's quite amazing to hear the whining criticisms of George Will and Julian Bond sound much alike). Farrakhan's persona spins off the usual fire and brimstone, and his politics were conservative dead end, but then—following Jesse Jackson and the NAACP into a netherworld of legislation, litigation, grants and foundations isn't getting people anywhere either. I think this even went well beyond the organizers.....The message I got was, I'm not marching for Farrakhan, I'm marching for me, my family, my neighborhood, my community, for the respect and survival of Black People....My primary concern about the march itself was the exclusion of Black Women. If

there's one group more used and abused than Black males, it's Black females... ' *** "I recently met with Kiko Martinez in the Attorney closet room. Although it was my pleasure to make his acquaintance, it was with much displeasure that I was cuffed to a waist chain throughout the entire visit--over our objects of course. "New policy," they said. I continued my vociferous objects into the following day and eventually the Associate Warden came by my cell to tell me it had all been a big mistake and would not happen again. Life in the Big House is such a bummer."

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RONALD "CORNBREAD" OWENS writes from MCI Walpole, MA: "10-19-95 all mainline co's were provided with protective vests. There was a great showing of authority, i.e., massive hallway pat searches, room searches, overt harassment." *** "I'm trying to incorporate the Mass-ACLU into getting the Mass Dept. of Corr. to cease labeling Hispanic prisoners as security threats.(STG's)" *** "Had a visit from older brother and his son; this was a battery recharger!" *** "The Million Man March has done a lot to bring some of my African brethren out of their apathy. Mass prisons are new era type slave plantations. The staff are predominately white and full of covert evil racist feelings as evidenced by their treatment of prisoners of color....Walpole was on alert when unity of consciousness was exhibited by the African prisoners, who fasted on the day of the Million Man March; a lot of prisoners didn't work that day; also there was REAL GENUINE LOVE THAT DAY AMONGST AFRICAN PRISONERS!!! It's continued to the dismay of the administration. There have been a lot of 'building' groups amongst African prisoners. I've been approached with various projects to get something established. I intend to get as many prisoners of all ethnicities to register to vote in the upcoming 1996-elections. Massachusetts is one of the few states which has legal provisions allowing prisoners the right to vote.. ...I have many caucasian comrades in the struggle and they understand my daily efforts at political activism/litigation is real and as

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important to me as is my daily attempts to awaken my African brethren to their/our history and our future needs...I will be sending a form letter to all POW's and PP's. " *** "Yours for the cause of PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD."

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CHUCKIE AFRICA writes from SCI Graterford: "Still box to stay in shape but don't get to run as much as I'd like because I'm working all day--but not the weekends." *** "There's been much discussion, debate, on the Million Man March. I think it was an important statement. Anything that exhibits unity, effort against this system is good." *** "The family all doing well on the outside. Ramona and other members just completed a West Coast (and Colorado) trip of speaking engagements and programs that were successful." *** "I haven't seen Ramona on a visit because the PA Dept. of Corrections put out a memo that she is not allowed to visit any more members at all. I told the warden here--vicious house Negro Donald Vaughn--that I should be allowed to visit with my wife, just as all other inmates who have followed procedure. He denied me still even though I had already had visits with Ramona before, about 5 of them!!" *** "Stay strong Mu, Maroon and all the bro's and sista's." On a Move!"

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IMARI A. OBADELE writes from Wynne Unit, Huntsville, TX: Disciplinary action: "No. Had a visit from some chump who stated he was from 'Gang Investigation' squad. The chump tossed my cell and asked a bunch o stupid questions." *** New rules: "Prison officials can now determine what is 'frivolous litigation' and can take good-time and class from us for 'frivolous' lawsuits; they can now deduct from our prison accounts money from damage awards won in litigation against the prisons." *** Obadele enclosed a report on the N'COBRA (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America) meeting of which he was Co-Chair Part of the discussion was "on the demand for a Reparations down-payment of \$10 billion for 10 campuses where educators could give people con-

fidence and training which will make it possible for them to go on to vocations or professions."

*** "Am working with the Women's Crusade to get movement around the release of PP/POW/Social-Political prisoners. Asked PP United in N.J. to pass along info on Women's Crusade to PP's whom they are in contact with. Sent me some dis-letter, 'We'll talk it over...' Figure they must be a bunch of whites who have a problem with the New Afrikan Independence Movement." *** "I can dig it...demonstrates the correctness of the movement to become independent from white folk....Whites just ain't gonna 'get it.' It's okay as long as we're separate without power as we are now, but most of these whites have a fit when some of us act to change that and become separate with power to control our lives...Such is life. We shall win!"

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ELEGGUA OSUN ELUFE writes from Napanoch, NY : "I was just denied [parole] for the second time. I must go back in 1997." ***

"Still involved with AIDS (PACE) group, non-violence group." *** My family was very upset I was denied parole, but they are taking it positive and are still very supportive." *** "I am always elated to hear and share my spiritual strength..."

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JAAN LAAMAN writes from Leavenworth: {His comments on the NBC television movie were sent under separate cover). "Well, a very large march in DC today. I think it was a good thing and a success, tough, of course, there were lots of things I disagreed with--all the god stuff and the exclusion of women, etc. But all that aside, it's time for large numbers of people, especially Black people to go shake up Washington. That happened." *** "Interestingly, here, there was an accomadationist approach by the prison. First, people could request the day off and were given the day off. Also tonight they delayed the 4 p.m. count. This is a very standard thing all over the BOP. Anyway they did not have the count until about 5:30 when Farrakhan's speech was over. All this is ex-

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tremely unusual. I'm very curious to hear what happened in other kamps. My feeling is that this was not isolated to Leavenworth--that the decision was taken in DC or somewhere to accommodate this march inside the prisons."

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SUSAN ROSENBERG who is now in Danbury, CT. had a poem for Mumia published in "Out of Time." Here is an excerpt: "If the state murders Mumia all of us will be diminished...The deepest damage will spread and the particles that racism breed will extend the shadow life....Their message so clear--Do not be Black...Do not be radical...Do not be a political prisoner....There is still time to SHAKE IT LOOSE to pry open this iron fist to shake spir-its free into the light ...To free Mumia Abu-Jamal."

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ANA LUCIA GELABERT writes from Gatesville TX: "While our 'leftist' 'leaders' keep showing their cowardice and vacillations, the rulers of amerikkka and their fascist goons keep consolidating the coup perpetrated last November. So very soon it will be too late to resist. We in texas prisons are seeing this first and foremost, sort of a preview of things to come for all in amerikkka. Of late the texas legislature met and invalidated virtually all the federal court rulings governing texas prisons. De facto, texas has declared its independence from the U.S. in regard to prisons. As of October 1, 1995, we in close and medium custody in TX prisons are virtually confined to our cells for 22 hours a day. Food is insufficient in calories, even if vita pro is counted in as food. Our mail is tampered with; publications denied at will or admitted at will...." *** "Death to Fascism!"

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MOHAMMED ALI writes from MCC, NY: "I say, Salaam Aliakum to all the brothers and readers of this letter. I pray for all the brothers. Also I would say to all the brothers about our trial since the trial is over and the verdict was crazy for everyone nobody believe it! " *** "I have faith in Allah no matter what happen. Allah

knew that we are innocent no matter what!
And Allah will reveal the truth one day inShaa
Allah." *** Thank to all." *** "I would like to
hear from brother Mohamed and Nidal." ***
"Salaam to all."

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RICHARD MAFUNDI LAKE writes from Holman
Prison, Atmore, Ala.: "Prison on lockdown for
alleged missing wirecutters. It is not known
whether the wirecutters are lost, stolen--or by
whom." *** "Trying to organize a Kwanzaa
Committee to plan a Kwanzaa Program." ***
"Trying to educate the young prisoners not to
be so easily trapped by the many games prison
managers use to degrade, use and destroy
prisoners. Prisoners need to operate scientifi-
cally rather than emotionally." *** "We must
save and preserve our youth. Our youth are
us--the good, the bad, the ugly and we, the el-
ders, must not abandon or betray them>" ***
"My daughter, Assata Shakur Lake, is now at-
tending Alabama A & M University and playing
in the school's band." *** "We can't have
unity if we practice regionalism. The Afrika Na-
tion has diverse tendencies, perspective, etc.,
that are equally important and should be
equally respected."

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IBRAHIM ABDUS SALAAM (TERRY YANT)
writes from Auburn, NY: "My comradely greet-
ing to all Brother and Sisters for 'the struggle.'
May Allah T'Ala continue to guide and protect
us all (In-sha-Allah!)" *** "The Trial of the
Century comes back with the 'Not Guilty' for
O.J.--that's all that Brother Mumia needs is a
chance to prove his innocence (justice)." ***
"The copy and courts are in business to assure
that those who fight the poverty and racism
endemic to capitalism are 'safely housed in
hellholes or in their graves." *** "I'm begin-
ning to see what Bro. Malcolm X saw after he
went on the pilgrimage to Mecca--disunity,
mass confusion, etc. You know what's really
saddening? We as a race of people not only
have to fight against the oppressors, institu-
tional slaver and injustices, etc., we are forced
to fight against stupidity, ignorance and a lack

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of not wanting to know the truth." *** "I do try
to help other prisoners with their legal issues.
The ones I don't help are the ones that don't
know that they have any issue." *** "I have
been constantly harassed for litigating my
claims, complaints, suits by not receiving the
proper medical treatment and commissary."

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JIM BARRETT writes from Florence: "We have
a new warden starting soon--don't know his
name." *** "Every year in Marion a bunch of
us, in different cell houses, would run Half
Marathons: one in April (in spirit w/Boston) and
one in October (in spirit with the New York and
Chicago Marathons). And so it is in Florence--
with the tiny cement-ground yards, though, it is
more difficult. As you read this, some of us will
have done the, ahem, First Annual Florence
Gump Halloween Half Marathon. Instead of
counting laps, there'd be 288.2 in the 13.1
miles. We'll jog for two hours and call it a sea-
son." *** "The October TJI was ixnayed." ***
"Things are quiet here. No 'lockdown'. After
the second day, regular 'schedule.'" *** Bar-
rett then writes: "There are prison 'control units'
all across the country. [But] one of the things
that makes ADX-Florence, the *idea* of Florence
as a full-time control unit so vicious is that its
purpose is court-approved....In most of the
country's older seg blocks prisoners still face
the likelihood of beatings, gassings, restraints,
forced medications, multiple celling, poor to
non-existent health care...That'll all be happen-
ing in ADX Florence when the spotlight goes
off it a few years down the line. For now Flor-
ence is the showcase....This super maxi-max
prison has been in operation for less that a
year and I can see that the joint is having a
spiritually-crushing effect on all of us....The
other day during rec my neighbor lamented to
me that he felt like a captive mouse on a spin-
ning wheel, running and running and running,
trying desperately to keep ahead of whatever
was chasing him....Every day, every waking
hour, he'd jog in place, do sit-ups, try to read
write a letter, pray, try to juggle some soap
bars, wash his walls, try to study--anything to
'keep busy, to not let the place get to me.' I

could only nod and encourage him to hang tough. I know his battle...If you don't fight you lose--big time. My survival technique includes daily self admonishments not to brood, not to take routine aggravations personally, not to dwell on the past pains...I've seen men become twisted by hate and suppressed fury in Marion, and I want very much to survive with my spirit and integrity as well as my brain intact....To get out of a control unit situation, the prisoncrats point to a 'program' that must be completed one step at a time. Fine. Where's the starting line?...But once you get a shot you have to start over again.....Once you have a certain label (Political prisoners[are labeled as terrorists], you routinely get what we call situational shots....No big penalty--just bad enough to have start over again...."

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AKONO G. OLATUNJI writes from Indiana State Prison: Moved from MCC to ISP *** "Court date scheduled for August 1996." *** "ISP is more isolated than ever--have brought women behind the wall and for added intimidation they have big dogs accompanying pigs everywhere they go." Activity: "Temple of African National Colonial Liberation (TANCL)" *** "Teaching myself how to read and write in Hebrew." *** Akono is concerned about Shaka and wishes him to get well.

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SANYIKA SHAKUR has been released and is living in California.

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HERMAN BELL writes from Comstock where he was moved from Eastern NY State:: "Received one year in the box for participation in a 'demonstration' at Eastern CF with loss of phone, plus commissary privileges." *** "In response to the 13 Sept. 'lock-in' at Eastern DOCs spokesman said it was a protest against 'double-bunking' at that jail and that, using 'privilege correspondence' of her office, a female employee of the Legal Aide Society encouraged inmates throughout the state to par-

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ticipate in a demo commemorating the anniversary of the Attica uprising. That's not exactly true from what I understand. The lock-in was in protest base on a long list of grievances which are too lengthy to list here. The main ones were for good-time legislation for *all* prisoners, restoration of work release for *all* eligible inmates, and end to \$5.00 disciplinary surcharge, restoration of 5 free letters per week, and to rescind double-bunking policy. That *all* state inmates were expected to participate in this demo, especially those in the maxes, which explains the Legal Aide workers role. But since inmates in other maxes had already spontaneously demonstrated earlier--in opposition to double-bunking and a good many of the leaders had been locked up and located to other jails--the demo of Eastern failed to achieve its targeted goal. 95% of the population at Eastern supported the lock-in, which was a major achievement for a population whose reputation is 'suspect.'" *** Well over 100 men were booted out of Easter (myself included) and subsequently given time in the box. I was not charged with organizing or leading the demo--as I had absolutely nothing to do with it--but I was still sentenced to a year in the box for participating in it. Just being in the vicinity of a political action and we PPs and POWs are suspected or organizing and leading it." *** Bell expresses pleasure when he reads "everybody is doing reasonably okay and is on top of bizness. He is feeling like hugging Marilyn and he loves Ray's piece...." *** He later writes: "After a long and painful struggle to get well from cancer, my mother passed away on 10/13/95. I was not permitted to visit her sick bed or to attend the funeral. We were blessed to have had her as a mother. I loved her very much" *** "I remain in the box. I submitted my appeal and have to wait up to 60 days for a response." *** "Thanx to David--I received your 'shout-out.'" *** "I hear that well over 200 men were booted from Eastern CF as a result of the work strike there. I feel good personally because the guys there did what they said they were going to do." *** "In struggle, sometimes we can only take small

steps and that counts as a victory too." ***
 "Greetings to all of our captured comrades..."

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MAULANA MODIBO EUSI writes from Marion:
 "I did receive the June and July issues of TJI,
 earlier denied by the omnipotent administrator
 here....Several weeks past, I had the occasion
 to talk with the omnipotent administrator about
 his reason for disallowing TJI into the bowels
 and he conveyed to me that he does not
 blankly deny publications...Whenever he de-
 nies any publications entrance, his premise is
 predicated on [specific] articles. But we know
 that this is a blatant and odious lie--not one is-
 sue of TJI has contained articles that were of-
 fensive or threatening to the safety and secu-
 rity of the bowels..." *** "I beseech you
 brothers and sisters to take a damn good look
 around you; the bowels of amerikkka is busting
 at the seams with our youths, with 'our chil-
 dren,' and it is our duty to save them." ***
 "We can not allow the crack law to defeat us,
 or to destroy our youths." *** "Reverent
 greetings, Sundiata, Mumia, Mutulu, Sanyika,
 and all the other rades who dare to struggle.
 Thanks to the Muslim community the adminis-
 trator allowed us to take the day off from work
 for the Million Man March." *** "Build to
 win!!!"

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IBN KENYATTA writes from Fish(murder)kill,
 NY; "I have been refusing to appear before the
 parole board since 1988. I'm nearing my 22nd
 winter in konfinement of a 15-to-life sentence.
 Our 'NO' to parole constipates the system!"
 *** "I was found 'guilty' on a Tier II for pos-
 sessing 'contraband' which was a legal docu-
 ment I purchased from the prison law library.
 The 'ticket' cost me \$9.00. I'm still fighting it."
 *** "A new directive has come down concern-
 ing personal grooming--hair cuts, shaving, etc.,
 during reception or transfer. Men refusing to
 comply will be placed in APC (Administrative
 protective custody)." *** "I am involved in a
 personal development group within the prison.
 It is non-accredited." *** "Presently writing a
 book. I am an artist, poet, warrior." *** "I

This Just In ...

must perform self-catheterizing procedure 4
 times a day in order to pee. This stems from a
 near-death experience here in Dec. 1994--
 negligence by the medical staff here." ***
 "My family ties are loose. They feel helpless in
 the face of my predicament and perhaps also
 angered by my refusing to go before the
 [parole] board. I have a fiancée of 18 winters."
 *** "We prisoners must connect with our peo-
 ple in the larger society; we must discover
 ways to use our cases and imprisonment to
 undermine and discredit the system."

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ISHANGO {MIKE} BUNDY writes from SCI
 Green (where he arrived after being moved 6
 times in 8 months) He describes conditions
 there: He says he is being taken through the
 behavior modification techniques--intensive
 observation, cell checks and searches every
 day, body strips whenever he leaves cell; cold,
 refrigerated temperature in cell, no books, lim-
 ited property--a 2-inch tooth brush; no talking
 among prisoners; very limited access to the law
 library. He hasn't seen a whole orange, banana
 or grapefruit ...He is a vegetarian...Strict pro-
 cedures on being ready, standing at the cell
 door with light on for outdoor exercise one hour
 and for showers. This is done with no warning.
 Petty misconducts for holding food items in cell
 and for covering cold central-air-incoming vent.
 No property racks in cell, all property on floor--
 ants and spiders infest property...shower not
 scrubbed or cleaned, outer block not mopped,
 only spot swept. *** Ishango sends greeting
 of "On a Move" to Chucky Afrika and to give
 Arko a hotep (an ancient kemetic greeting
 meaning "Peace that cannot be disturbed by
 external influence.")

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KATHY BOUDIN has written a poem which
 we'd like to share with you: "For Mumia....I
 wonder what you do with fear--do you give it
 space to float between the shadows of the bars
 that crisscross lines of mouse gray cinder-
 blocks in the mustard yellow lights....does it
 change into moving shapes of ghosts in pale
 green masks....I imagine that you let fear flow

like tears which wash away the salt it brings....I wonder how you plant your hope--do you walk in fields of dreams or find it in the magic of a spider's web in the ceiling corner of your cell, in the constancy of seasons-in the tenderness that somehow survives....I wonder how you grow your life in a row that they call death....Is it true not enough hours in the day exist to write all the articles in your mind--that sleep takes you away from finding legal points to save the lives of others on your tier--that life is full when you are full of life....I wonder what your lessons are for those of us in another state where we in prison now await New York's first execution." Bedford Hills Prison, November 1994.

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MUMIA ABU-JAMAL'S legal defense team has now filed with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court a notice of its appeal for a new trial. This notice will be followed by submission to the Court of written briefs and, later, possibly as late as next spring, oral arguments.

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NOTE: Prisoners can receive books by writing: *Books to Prisoners, 92 Pike St., Box A, Seattle, WA 98101 or Prison Book Program 92 Green St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.*

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